



**Douglas/Rochestown Parish**  
**20 December 2020**



**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS**

Fr. Teddy & Fr. Pat wish all our parishioners a very happy and peaceful Christmas and a good New Year. *Nollaig Shona díbh go léir!*

**BAPTISMS**

**Refferty Niall Kaar-Lay**, son of Gillian & John, Classes Lake, Ballincollig.  
**Ciara O'Hanlon**, daughter of Ciara & Duncan, Wyngates, Maryborough Ridge.  
**Orlaith Eileen Lane**, daughter of Danielle & Bert, Greenvalley, Donnybrook

**News Desk**

**Christmas Masses Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Douglas & Rochestown**

**St. Columba's** : Christmas Eve: 4.00pm. 6.00pm. 8,00pm. Christmas Day: 8.30am, 10.00am & 11.30am

**St. Patrick's**: **Christmas Eve**: 3 30pm; 5pm, 6 30pm & 8 30pm, **Christmas Day**: 9 30; 11 & 12 30  
All Masses will be streamed on [douglasrochestownparish.ie](http://douglasrochestownparish.ie)

**Lens of the Gospel**

**20 December 2020 Lens**

1. *We are all favoured ones and God is with us. Sometimes we are more aware of this than others. How have you experienced being a favoured person, one blessed by God? How have you experienced God's presence? Who has been Gabriel to you ... a messenger of good news?*
2. *'Do not be afraid'. Mary was perplexed by the words of the angel. Perhaps you too have sometimes been perplexed by life's path and wondered what it all meant. Perhaps at times you have doubted if God was really with you. In your troubled moments who has been an 'angel' helping to lower your anxiety?*
3. *Mary was taken by surprise by the invitation, but she did not tell the angel she was not ready, nor ask him to return later. She was prepared to go with the invitation even though it was not the 'right moment'. 'Here I am Lord'. What invitations have come to you at the 'wrong time' and how have you responded?*
4. *Mary's response serves as a model for us – as one saying 'yes' to what life offers. What is it like for you to say 'yes' to life? Perhaps at this moment in your life you are being invited to say: 'Here I am, Lord'? **Intercom***

**The Deep End**

20 December 2020

**Keep awake**

*The situation into which Jesus was born was one of huge stigma with dangerous consequences. God's physical birth into this world was condemned socially; Jesus was marginalised from the moment of his conception. Imagine God choosing to be involved so intimately in this world and in such a 'shocking' way. Even the town of Galilee is problematic for this news as Galileans were considered by the religious leaders of the time to be 'second-class Jews'. It is here Jesus comes. God surprises. God stands with the marginalised. God is present in the most hidden places at times.*

*On the first Sunday of Advent we were invited to 'Keep Awake'. As we approach the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, what have you noticed this advent? What has your waiting been like? How have you prepared? Where have you seen God present this Advent? Where have you seen God being born around you? In the most unexpected places? In the most marginalised? Is your heart more open to receive a new birth of God again?*

*"Quiet me within, clothe my body in peacefulness, that your Word once again may take flesh – this time, within me – as once it did in holy Mary; long Advent days ago."*

**Edward Hays, Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim. Intercom**

**Advent Examination of Conscience**

*Reflect on ways you may have turned away from loving God, our neighbours and the earth: How do my actions show my compassion for all those who are trapped in grinding poverty?*

*Do I cherish and protect creation, remembering that God is the creator of all? Advent calls us to change our lives: how will you 'prepare a way for the Lord' in your life?*

**Christmas reflection:** Behold the Lamb of God

Jesus is a shepherd who knows what it is like to be a lamb. He becomes one of the vulnerable flock. He has been made a victim of 'the wolves' disguised in sheep's clothing. He 'wipes away the tears' (Rev 21:4) of the 'Holy Innocents' who are brutalised by today's modern 'Herod' – as they are 'washed in the blood of the Lamb' (Rev 7:14).

**COVID-19 Support Line for Older People** ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to COVID-19 Professional staff available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm by calling 0818 222 024, and will remain open over the Christmas period.

**St Vincent de Paul**

Emily Magner Hurley will hold an online Christmas concert in aid of **St Vincent de Paul** on Sunday 20th December. If you donate €5 to the following link: <https://www.svp.ie/emhfo> rsvp